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George Miller to S. G. Miller (12 June 1863)

George Miller

Susan G. Miller

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Consider a standing "Wind" regards to our kin down there

position in our front) and went up to our old
camp grounds of last year, remaining all night
on the same spot where "Will^m Langell's" Father's
tent stood then, (a battle has been fought over that
old field and it looks desolate enough now) and
left again yesterday at noon for Culpeper, where I know
I will not, under the circumstances, attempt any
description of things that I have seen up here
as I am scribbling by a little piece of candle
which will burn out directly, while I am stretch-
ed on my blanket, with paper in hand, for want
of something to write on, and must get my
letter in the mail at Culpeper tomorrow if pos-
sible. I hope you have taken my hint and have
come up to Culpeper ahead of us, as it's the last
chance you'll have of seeing us, though you make
no mention of having received either of the notes
I addressed you from Petersburg & Richmond, (see you
letter to Pa, I don't write often when we are quiet,
but I always have tried to keep you advised, in
advance, of any movement of importance, so
that you could avoid yourself of it in time, if you

There, Pa sent his trunk containing his clothes
and my uniform & clothes also, to Richmond by
Bathurstown who gets off, as usual, on all easy
excuses. (he ^{is} has a ^(conscience very small) conscience about as mallea-
ble as the softest dough.) Of all the silly protests
for running about and dodging that ever were
invented his certainly will take the premium. I fairly
wish some folks were at the devil sometimes.
The trunk and clothes, I expect we have seen
the last of, and I mention it that you may have
a clue to finding it, should they leave us over in
Maryland or Penn^a, when they come back, and as
as for myself, I expect no other fate. If I was
fighting for my own home and country I would
care, but these two politicians aint worth fighting
for. And Jeff^r D is an unmitigated jackass.
Pa will wait forever if he expects promotion at
his hands. Loey D is still loafing along on the
road, he wont be in the M & P ^{no 2} campaign I pre-
dict, and Stonewall will be 'Brig', aint it delectable,
the prospect? He was at Westpoint Ala coming on
the last they heard from him. I think he forgot
something, and must have gone back after it!

We heard today from a passing Courier of Sewell's
fight at Winchester, he having seen it in yesterday's
paper. It commenced ^(the report) with a big story and ended with
a little one, to wit, that C. took 1600 prisoners & lost
Gen Smith (just elected), and that Milroy's under still
held the place! rather incredible, I think, considering
Milroy's force, even that many, in all a short time
ago. Well, Lee and all his concern have gone either
towards the valley or Manassas, we can't tell which,
and he will come back here, if he comes at all, cut
all to pieces, in less than two months, I can't help believing.
If the men went with the same spirit that inspired
them last year, it would do, but they were dreadfully
disheartened by that terrible Campaign and C. K. upon
this second madness with a feeling of perfect horror.
We follow on after them tomorrow, and in less than
two weeks you will hear of a terrible battle or series
of them towards Manassas or in Md somewhere, in
which, May God help us, I have often wished I was
better prepared to die, and at no time, have I ever felt
so awfully the want of that preparation, than now.
In the scenes - the ghastly orgies - Oh how horrible the
sight rises before these eyes that have so often seen them -
that we are to pass through, there is scarcely a possibility
of all of us escaping the "inevitable hour!" and as my
life, though yet in its early summer, has been anything
but a happy one, I am the more strongly impelled to long
for the "Calm of Heaven" - the "Houses of the Blest" How awful
is the thought of annihilation - of doom, and how the
heart shudders at thoughts of such men beholding the
faces of those we loved on earth. It would see them
in heaven, and Oh may God grant that I may be among
those who "walk in white" in the last day. This will be
the last letter you will receive from me - perhaps even
and certainly until we return, and now is the time
for last requests and last words, and one of those is -
a natural one, but one which has always been of most
exceeding solicitude with me - that I might be taken
home and laid close by my own home or among those
dear haunts I loved so well and which have been hal-
lowed by many a happy - sunny day - by the old Span-
ish oak in the grove or on the mound - if I should
fall in this inhospitable land, But it is possible, even
probable, that even this boon will be denied me as it
was those poor hearts who died in Md last year and
who repose forever in a foreign land, God avert.



Summary since
May 30

Col Hugh R. Miller
42nd Regt Missi
Iron Station,
(via Petersburg)
Virginia.